

# AETC News Clips



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17 Oct 01

Express-News: America Targets Terrorism

## **Pentagon calls up nearly 1,100 AF reservists based at Lackland**

**By Sig Christenson**

Express-News Military Writer

**Web Posted :** 10/17/2001 12:00 AM

The Pentagon ordered nearly 1,100 Air Force reservists with the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland AFB to active duty Tuesday.

The reservists — 1,082 in all — will support C-5 aircraft operations for the wing, typically the most visible military units in San Antonio.

"They will go into service as soon as they receive a deployment or activation order," said Capt. David Kurle, a spokesman with the Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB in Georgia.

The call-up of the 433rd, which constitutes about one-third of its force strength, is the largest yet for reservists in the Alamo City area.

Tens of thousands of National Guard and Air Force Reserve troops have been called up or been ordered to active duty since the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Among those were more than 400 Texas National Guardsmen, who were recently assigned to protect 26 airports around the state, including San Antonio International.

In a separate activation, the Defense Department said last month that 390 personnel from the Air Intelligence Agency in San Antonio had been ordered to full-time service, as well as 273 from the Air Education and Training Command, headquartered at Randolph AFB.

Australia announced it will begin deploying troops and military hardware to the Persian Gulf over the next two weeks to join the U.S.-led coalition.

Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday the deployment of about 1,550 troops was ordered after a telephone request overnight from President Bush.

"He indicated the United States would like to activate the commitment that Australia had made to join the coalition force. I indicated that Australia would respond," Howard told reporters.

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While the 433rd in San Antonio may have been expected to play a significant role in the nation's response to the terrorist attacks, little information was available late Tuesday about the unit's involvement in Pentagon operations linked to the conflict.

Top Air Force officials could not be reached for comment.

Backed by a force of 3,300 at Lackland, the 433rd's giant airlifters have supported troops in the Persian Gulf War and flown food to hurricane-ravaged Honduras.

Late Tuesday, 433rd spokesman Lt. Col. Meade Warthen said that "some" members of the unit had been ordered to active duty.

"That's all I can say at this point," Warthen said.

The reservists have 72 hours to report to duty, the Air Force Reserve Command's Kurle said.

The Texas delegation was notified of the 433rd call-up on Sunday. Kurle said no more than 1,082 reservists with the wing could be ordered to duty.

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*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

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Express-News: Military

## Soldiers to get new homes

By Sig Christenson

Express-News Military Writer

Web Posted : 10/17/2001 12:00 AM

Staff Sgt. Eddie Davis and his family won't soon forget their house — the one that came with a trench, sandbags, small snakes, grasshoppers and wood roaches.

"As long as it doesn't rain, I'm happy," said Davis, who said the trench and sandbags help keep water from coming inside.

But this time next year, perhaps, Davis and other soldiers living in Fort Sam Houston's run-down Harris Heights subdivision won't have to keep one eye on the sky and another on their aging, dilapidated homes.

A House-Senate conference committee Tuesday approved \$11.2 million for a new housing project at Fort Sam Houston.

Under the Military Construction Appropriations Bill, 80 new family housing units would be built in Harris Heights, starting next year.

The House and Senate are expected to approve the measure later this week.

Word of the action delighted another fellow career soldier living in Harris Heights, Sgt. 1st Class Edward Salazar, as well as Fort Sam's top commander, Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley.

"That is just great news. I am thrilled," Kiley said.

"This is a good thing they're doing for our families," said Salazar, a 20-year veteran who has endured plumbing problems and a never-ending war on roaches in his home. "If they want to keep people in (the service), this is one area we are concerned about."

Earlier this year, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, pledged to seek funding to begin the first phase of a project that would replace all the homes in Harris Heights, a half-century-old post community of 252 duplexes and single-family homes.

The Harris Heights Revitalization Project would replace all the

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residences by 2006 at a total cost of at least \$38.8 million.

"Especially during these times when we have increased deployments and personnel shortages, it is in our national interest to continue to show our dedicated troops and their families that we appreciate their sacrifice and commitment," Hutchison said Tuesday.

Shifting earth and root growth have ripped through or crushed water and sewer lines and cracked the foundations of homes in Harris Heights and another housing area known as Patch-Chaffee.

Some Harris Heights homes have been vacated and boarded up.

A married father of three children ranging from 4 to 12 years old, Salazar, 39, said a bathtub in his home seeps water into a bedroom and closet. Water underneath the kitchen caused the floor to buckle.

During heavy rains, Davis' master bedroom has flooded, prompting the Army to build a trench and put sandbags around the walls and a door outside.

He and his wife, Engerr, fought off small, non-poisonous Texas blindsnakes, as well as grasshoppers and roaches.

The Brookings Institution's Michael O'Hanlon called housing a "morale and retention issue," a view shared by retired Army Col. David Hackworth, a syndicated columnist.

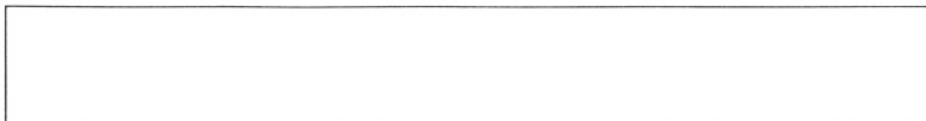
"It's great that Congress has finally realized that if they want to have a viable military force, they're going to have to ensure that the soldiers have good rifles, good training and good family quarters," he said.

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FROM KENS 5 AND THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

NEWS

Express-News: Military

## S.A. rep seeks new GI renter rule

By Gary Martin

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/17/2001 12:00 AM

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon initiative to privatize military housing has created an unintended consequence that could strip 9,500 children of their eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Program, educators and lawmakers said Tuesday.

Federal accounting rules count as salary allowances paid to private developers operating base housing. When the money is added to the paychecks of enlisted personnel, some may earn too much money to qualify for the lunch program for their children.

Dr. John Deegan, chief executive officer for the Military Impacted Schools Association, said the increased income for noncommissioned officers and enlisted personnel means thousands of children "are going to lose their free or reduced lunch."

"This is really an issue of health and nutrition," said Deegan, whose organization represents 55 major school districts serving U.S. bases.

Efforts failed to change the accounting glitch at the Pentagon through administrative procedures.

"It seems like there was a lot of bureaucracy that we could not penetrate," Deegan said.

As Congress winds down its legislative business for the year, lawmakers from states with military bases are scrambling to find a solution.

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, has filed a bill that would change the accounting standards so that housing allowances paid to developers for military personnel do not disqualify children for the lunch program.

Currently, children in a family of four with an annual income of \$32,653 or less are eligible for reduced-price lunches. Those meals are free when the annual income is \$22,945 or less, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the school lunch program.

For some members of the armed services, housing allowances of up to

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\$1,000 per month, paid directly to developers of base housing, count as salary and not as a benefit. The increase also pushes many incomes above lunch program limits.

"Now is not the time to be cutting benefits for the lowest ranking members of the armed services, especially as we mobilize our troops for the war on terrorism," said Rodriguez, a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Rodriguez's bill would cost \$14 million over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Other legislative efforts are under way. Deegan said his association is working with Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, the chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee, and Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

School districts also are lobbying lawmakers to change the accounting procedure because funding for nutrition, technology and educational programs drops when the number of children who benefit from the programs declines.

"The way these formulas are set up, we get a discount for services based on the percentage of students who are disadvantaged," said David Splitek, superintendent of the Lackland School District, which serves Lackland AFB.

Last year, enrollment decline in the school lunch program cost the Lackland district \$80,000, out of a budget of \$10 million, Splitek said.

Deegan said schools in a small community like Bellevue, Neb., which serves 2,800 families living at Offutt AFB, can be hard hit by a reduction in program funding.

"And the only ones who suffer, in the end, are the kids," Deegan said.

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# Ban on Kelly water use urged

Consultant suggests monitoring equipment and tree plantings.

BY JERRY NEEDHAM  
AND WILLIAM PACK

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITERS

A consultant hired to evaluate Air Force plans for cleanup of contaminated groundwater near the former Kelly AFB is recommending that the city ban all use of the shallow groundwater in the area and that the Air Force install continuous monitoring equipment to determine if potential vapors from the contamination are harmful.

Zephyr Environmental Corp., an Austin-based firm hired by the City Council in August to examine proposed cleanup strategies, is backing a modified version of one of six remediation options offered by the Air Force, while arguing that more time may be needed to clean up the contamination than the 25 years estimated by Air Force officials.

Zephyr is recommending that pump-and-treat systems using vertical wells — rather than the horizontal wells proposed by the Air Force — be installed in areas of highest chemical concentration and that 800 poplar trees be planted on the banks of the San Antonio River to draw out and disperse any contamination that may reach the river.

Those findings were contained in a report sent to council this week by the city's Environmental Services Department. The department will officially report the results to the council at its regular meeting Thursday.

The department's report, authored by Acting Director Daniel Cárdenas, says the city's

staff also will make recommendations as a result of the report.

Among the staff recommendations will be an ongoing effort with the Air Force to monitor selected sites for potentially harmful vapors.

The staff also is recommending initiatives aimed at plugging all shallow groundwater wells in the plume area and requiring double-casing for new water wells that reach into the Edwards Aquifer, which is separated from the contaminated aquifer by more than 1,000 feet of rock and clay.

The report allows the city to stake a position in the dispute between the Air Force and residents in Southwest Side neighborhoods around the decommissioned base over steps that should be taken to protect the public.

The Kelly Restoration Advisory Board — a community-dominated board created by the Air Force — had not heard the consultant's recommendations when it met Tuesday night.

But the board, rather than recommending a specific strategy for cleanup, voted to send its community co-chair to the council with several suggestions.

Among them were that the board favors the most aggressive, fastest and safest cleanup possible, that the city evaluate the reuse potential of the

cleaned water, and that the board favors supplemental or teaming projects to help improve the neighborhood during the cleanup.

The Air Force already has spent \$235 million on the cleanup.

No cost estimate was provided for the recommended treatment, but the Air Force had pegged the cost with horizontal wells at about \$30 million.

The pollution from on-base industrial activities seeped into groundwater under the base and eventually moved underneath 20,000 homes and businesses in a 10-square-mile area.

Federal health officials have yet to find any links between the pollution and a variety of illnesses afflicting former workers and nearby residents.

Two councilmen who represent residents in the area of the base-turned-industrial park said they are glad the consultant has completed its work and are anxious to analyze the results.

Councilman David A. Garcia said he would meet with Zephyr officials today so that he has a clear understanding of the recommendations.

Councilman Enrique Martin said he had not reviewed the report but hopes it contains specific steps to protect the public.

"We've had enough dialogue," Martin said.

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Express-News: Military

## 3 Texas sailors were among the dead on American destroyer

By Sig Christenson

Express-News Military Writer

Web Posted : 10/15/2001 3:00 PM

It's been one year since a terror blast left a huge hole in the destroyer USS Cole and in the lives of 17 families who lost children there.

The Cole has been patched up, but the same can't be said for the families of three Texans who died on the destroyer.

With only the memories of their children left to cling to, the parents of Gary Graham Swenchonis Jr., Ronchester Santiago and Timothy Lee Gauna have endured the past year.

One has lost some of his faith in God. Others wonder if justice exists. All distrust the U.S. government.

"The main thing I feel that I've lost, and my wife lost as well, is faith in government and any trust in government at all," said Gary Graham Swenchonis Sr., 46, of Rockport. "When I say our government, I mean our leaders."

A profound alienation has developed among Swenchonis and many other relatives of the sailors lost when terrorists set off a blast that nearly sank the Cole one year ago Friday. They're skeptical of American resolve in finding those responsible, and they feel spurned by government leaders.

"We got a lot of speeches — rah-rah speeches — 'They'll have no safe harbor and there will be no place to hide and you will be brought to justice,'" said Anton Gunn, whose brother, Cherone Louis Gunn, 22, died in the blast. "We got no action, we got no follow-up; I mean, there's nothing. We've got nothing."

Rather than attend a ceremony Friday in Norfolk, Va., marking the anniversary and the dedication of a monument honoring the dead, Swenchonis, his wife, Deb, and daughter, Shalala Woods, instead visited their son's grave at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Deb Swenchonis used scissors to cut the stems of several red roses before kneeling to put them into a vase and place it next to her son's white marble

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headstone.

As the trio stood in silence, rifle fire from the cemetery's Memorial Service Detachment erupted nearby.

"I thought it was really ironic," Gary Swenchonis Sr. said. "Another volley on Oct. 12 for Gary."

More than 1,000 people, meanwhile, gathered in Norfolk for a half-hour ceremony broadcast nationwide. The families of three Cole victims did not attend, the Navy said.

While Rogelio Santiago Sr. and his wife, Simeona, left their Kingsville home to join Gunn and his family at the Norfolk event, Sarah Gauna kept her normal routine of the past year — visiting her son's grave three times over the course of the day.

The Norfolk ceremony "is more show for the Navy, more politics," she said.

"Why should I go?" asked 39-year-old Gauna, from a small community near Dallas. "It's not going to bring Tim back."

Swenchonis, 26, of Rockport; Santiago, 22, of Kingsville; and Gauna, 21, of the North Texas town of Ennis perished when a bomb blew a 40-by-40-foot hole in the Cole's hull while the ship refueled in Aden, Yemen.

The attack sparked dual probes by Yemeni and FBI investigators, but the inquiries have yet to result in trials or a U.S. counterstrike.

Exiled Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden is thought to have been involved in the bombing but hasn't claimed responsibility.

Past and present government officials have assured the families they're still seeking the attackers. Still, they choose their words carefully, not wanting to promise more than they can deliver.

"I can give them a sense that the FBI has never stopped their efforts in investigating this crime, this attack," said the Pentagon's Rear Adm. Craig Quigley. "But I can never promise, and neither can the FBI, what they're going to find."

Washington has "an obligation to the families to say that we will seek justice," former Defense Secretary William Cohen said. "We can arrest them and prosecute them — that's one thing — and track them down and eliminate them. That, too, will be a form of justice."

Meanwhile, the families fight daily to keep their children's memories alive.

Outside the Swenchonises' home north of Rockport, three flagpoles stand surrounded by rocks and red, white and blue flowers.

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The flags are those of the Army and Navy — the two military branches Gary Jr. served in — and the U.S. flag that covered his casket.

An hour or so to the southwest, in Kingsville, the Santiagos have taken inventory of the things the Navy sent back from the Cole — his boots, uniforms and souvenirs.

Far from South Texas in Rice, a community off Interstate 45 just south of Dallas, Gauna keeps her son's clothes, Navy books and poems in two cedar chests that sit on each side of her bed. Timothy's blue USS Cole cap and two teddy bears also are within arm's reach.

A cherished Mother's Day poem he published in the Ennis Daily News during the mid-1990s rests atop one of the chests.

"My mother has done the best she could to raise me and I wouldn't change nothing in the world because I love her," he wrote.

Tim graduated from Ennis High School in 1997 and joined the Navy two years later, serving as an information systems technician on the Cole. He hoped to study accounting at the University of Texas and later rejoin the Navy as an officer.

Ronchester Santiago, too, had his eyes on the University of Texas, where he wanted to study engineering. As a young boy, he often tinkered with electronic toys.

"Some of his friends called him the little MacGyver," said his father, Rogelio Santiago, referring to the TV character who always found innovative ways to get out of jams.

Gary Jr. apparently had found his calling in the Navy, where he served as a fireman aboard the Cole. Before, he graduated from Rockport-Fulton High School in 1994 and served four years in the Army.

After his death, his parents sold their house in town and turned to the isolation of a wooded area. But unanswerable questions have haunted them.

Those issues were magnified when suicide bombers killed thousands last month in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"I wonder if (U.S. officials) lay in bed at night and think about all those innocent people who died because of their lack of action, because they were trying to satisfy Middle East politics," Gary Swenchonis Sr. said.

"It's a political game and 17 sailors died because of politics," retired Navy chief Lou Gunn, 51, of Virginia Beach, Va., commented in lamenting the death of his son.

At 56, the elder Santiago spends most of his time at home looking at pictures of his son and pondering fate.

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"I have second thoughts (about God's existence)," said Santiago, a retired Navy chief raised as a Catholic. "I've got a lot of things to say about that, but to make it short, I lost some of my faith (in) God, I (lost) some of my trust in our decision-makers in the country."

Like the elder Santiago, Gauna feels guilt over not having been able to protect her son. Over the last year, she's turned inward, visiting her son's grave — her refuge when the world closes in.

"That's my way of healing," Gauna said. "I get this knot I my stomach, I have to go visit him and start crying and screaming, or whatever anger I have in my stomach.

"It's like a knot you get in there and you feel like it's going to come up your throat and you're going to either get mad or you're going to hurt somebody, but I don't. I go out there with nobody out there to bother me and I start screaming and crying."

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# Show goes on for Air Force's Tops in Blue

**Lana Sweeten-Shults**

Times Record News

Thirty-six thousand pounds of equipment.

Try hauling it. Lifting it. Setting it up. Tearing it down. Every day. It could suck the top of the mornin' out of anyone, but not Tops in Blue.

At the top of the mornin' on Monday, the 32-member contingent sputtered around Memorial Auditorium like an army of ants, skirting the dress of their day jobs — their Air Force "blues" — for maroon shirts and black pants. Tops in Blue stagehands pulled in lighting equipment, chains and black trunks filled with sparkly uniforms from a window where, below, more stagehands unloaded an 18-wheeler.

Only, these stagehands also happen to be the entertainers of Tops in Blue, the premier Air Force entertainment group, which was in town Monday to perform its "The Magic of Music" show. After four hours of setting up those 36,000 pounds of equipment, the group goes into rehearsals, puts on a beaming smile and some sequined clothes, performs a show, then tears down the stage and heads to the next town.

"Everyone has five to six jobs," said 1st Lt. Joni Grunewald, the group's public affairs officer, who won her slot as a Tops in Blue vocalist after winning the talent competition on her home base, Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, then wowing Tops in Blue talent-seekers at a worldwide competition. "Like our transportation coordinator runs the spotlight during the show. One of the truck drivers is in the show. Everyone does everything."

Call the group a self-contained entertainment entity with this as its mantra: Entertain troops and their families while boosting their morale and upping their patriotism.

It's a mission that has marched on to loftier fields of late, ever since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

The entertainment unit was actually in Spain at the time of the attacks.

"We were rehearsing, and our flight crew came over and told us," Grunewald said. "... Our tour director told us, 'Get your stuff and go up to the hotel and wait' ... We were in shock. It was the first time we had a show canceled."

Stranded in Europe and not able to fly home, the group traveled to Germany, where they regrouped and learned more patriotic and tribute songs to add to their show.

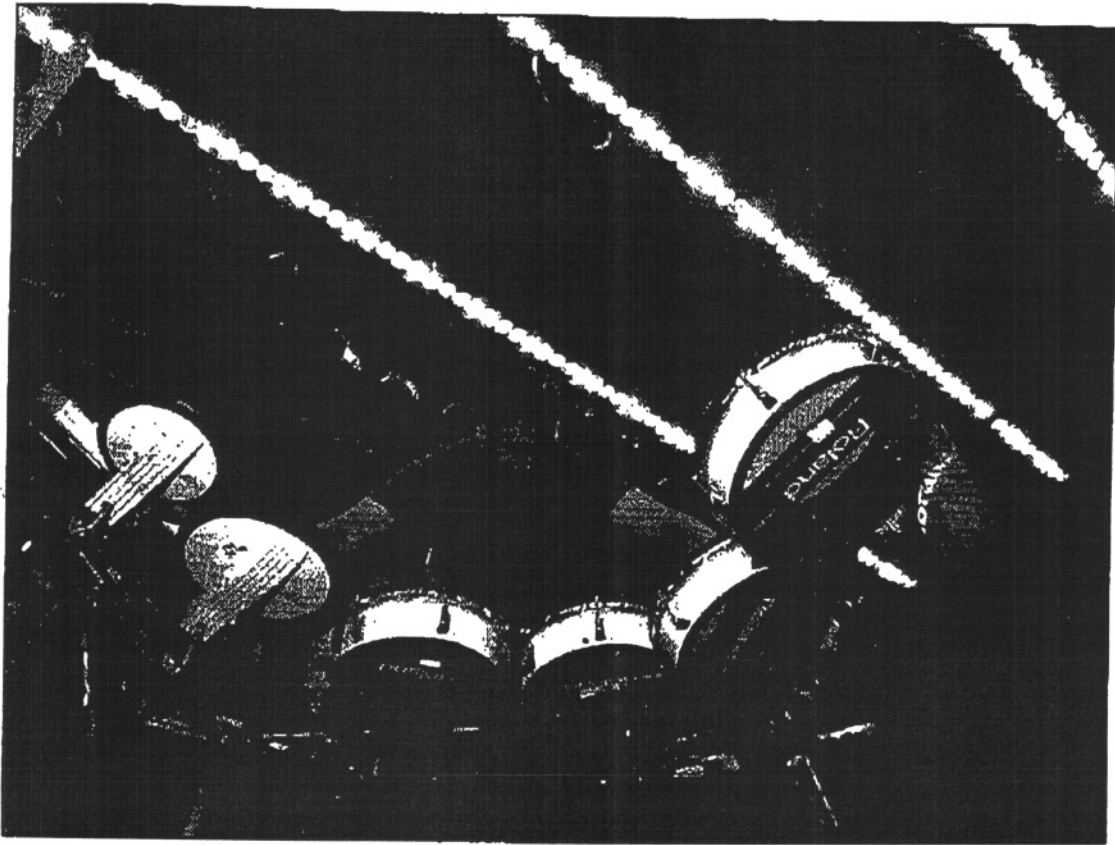
"We were all real nervous they were going to end our tour," Grunewald said. "We thought there was now way they're going to let us sing and dance ... But they said, if anything, they would need us more now."

Tops in Blue canceled several overseas dates, including the European leg of its tour. "They said there were no U.S. air flights in and out of places like Turkey and Saudi Arabia ... We canceled our European tour and came home."

However, Grunewald said the Pacific leg of this Tops in Blue show is still on.

Lighting director Mark Lindell Sr., an airman at Offut Air Force Base in Nebraska, is doing his second tour with Tops in Blue. He decided to try out again for the amateur show because, he said, "This is a very noble program ... especially overseas, where they

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Gary Lawson/Times Record News

**John Cappuccio lifts a drum set into position on the stage at Memorial Auditorium Monday afternoon as members of Tops in Blue prepared for their performance.**

need us. With the current state of affairs, they need to laugh again."

Lindell said he has noticed the change in the mood of the country by watching the response of Tops in Blue audiences.

"It's nice to see everybody rallied around the flag," he said.

Tops in Blue hoped for its show last night, it wouldn't have to overcome the technical difficulties it did at last year's show.

That's when a sound-board blew and the crew had to find another one while an anxious crowd waited for more than an hour for the show to begin.

The same kind of technical snafus have happened on this tour, like in Colorado when a generator went out — twice.

"We were like, 'God, what do we do?'" said Grunewald.

They put the sax player on stage to entertain the crowd while the bass player, who also takes care of the generator, worked on the problem.

Despite the troubles, Tops and Blue has fun with its song and dance.

Airman 1st Class Alberto Ramirez, who joined the

show from Altus, Okla., said what he likes about the show is "definitely the satisfaction — just to see their (the audience's) faces.

"I'm very grateful we get to come."

Arts and entertainment editor Lana Sweeten-Shults can be reached at (940) 720-3462 or by e-mail at [shultsl@wtr.com](mailto:shultsl@wtr.com).

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# Int'l parade 'spectacular'

ALEJANDRA VALDEZ

Staff Writer

The International Good Neighbor Council (IGNC) Fiesta de Amistad International Parade kicked off close to the 10 a.m. scheduled time. Braving the cool breeze, Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña residents lined along South Main Street anticipating a fun time.

The traditional U.S./Mexico theme reached new heights as the overall theme for the year was 'America and Patriotism'.

The different veterans' organizations made a huge hit as veterans and members of the ladies auxiliaries walked alongside the floats handing out American flags to all of the children within their reach and even the adults who asked for one. The Del Rio High School Mighty Ram Band played patriotic songs as crowds cheered, the sitting stood and children waved their newly acquired flags.

Toddia Fowler, Miss Del Rio Texas U.S.A. Ana Tellez and Miss Lake Amistad Teen U.S.A. Christy Tamez. Various school courts ranging from elementary to high school-level also made an appearance.

Marching groups included the AFJROTC Raiders, the AFJROTC Blue Tops (both precision drill teams), Del Rio High School Belles, the Middle School Band, the AFJROTC Color Guard and

many participating Acuña school bands and spirit groups.

Dignitaries on display were parade Marshal Polo Del Rio, Mr. Amistad Texas State representative Pete P. Gallego, Ms. Amistad Martha Mendoza, Del Rio Mayor Dora G. Alcala, Val Verde County Sheriff D'Wayne Jernigan, Laughlin Air Force Base's Col. Rick Rosborg, commander 47th Flying Training Wing, Command Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Enyeart and Del Rio IGNC President Luis Valdez accompanied by Ciudad Acuña IGNC President Carlos Lara. Marta Galindo, Texas Teacher of the Year also participated.

Strangely enough, the commotion that began with the lining of the parade floats did not end when the parade route did. The floats attempting to reach the Del Rio International Toll Bridge were left to wait in lines almost long enough to reach the Mexican Consulate offices.

Arrangements for the parade floats' entrance into Mexico were wrecked when lines of vehicles ahead of the floats were as long as the International Bridge itself. Mexico's Port of Entry was backed up as every vehicle was inspected before being allowed into Mexico. The

Miss Del Rio Court float braved past the toll bridge, but chose to return instead of waiting in the lines. Alcoa-Fujikura, the veterans organizations and the IGNC presidents were cleared a path past the many other vehicles in line so they could reach the Acuña parade route in time. As the vehicles rolled by, Del Rio IGNC President, Valdez called out, "Wish us luck!" Considering the lines to the United States Port of Entry were past the tallest point of the bridge, the floats and their riders were in need of that luck.

Five trophies were given to participants in the parade. The International Sweepstakes trophy was presented to the best overall entry, Casa de la Cultura.

The Casa de la Cultura float was decorated with flowers and bore a Statue of Liberty as well as an eagle, one wing was an American flag and the other a Mexican flag. Children participating in the Casa's classes, as well as adults from the Rotanda dressed as mariachis filled the float.

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The Eisenhower and Lopez-Mateo second place entry trophy is named in honor of the American and Mexican presidents at the time of the Amistad Dam's inauguration. The trophy went to Alcoa-Fujikura's a world united themed float.

The Aubrey Rowland third place award was presented to Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary Student Council. Fiesta de Amistad Award, an honorable mention, went to the best marching unit, Steve Sosa's United Power Cheer Wildcats.

The International Good Neighbor Council Award, recognizing the parade entry with the best display promoting international friendship went

to East Side Elementary's Royal Court.

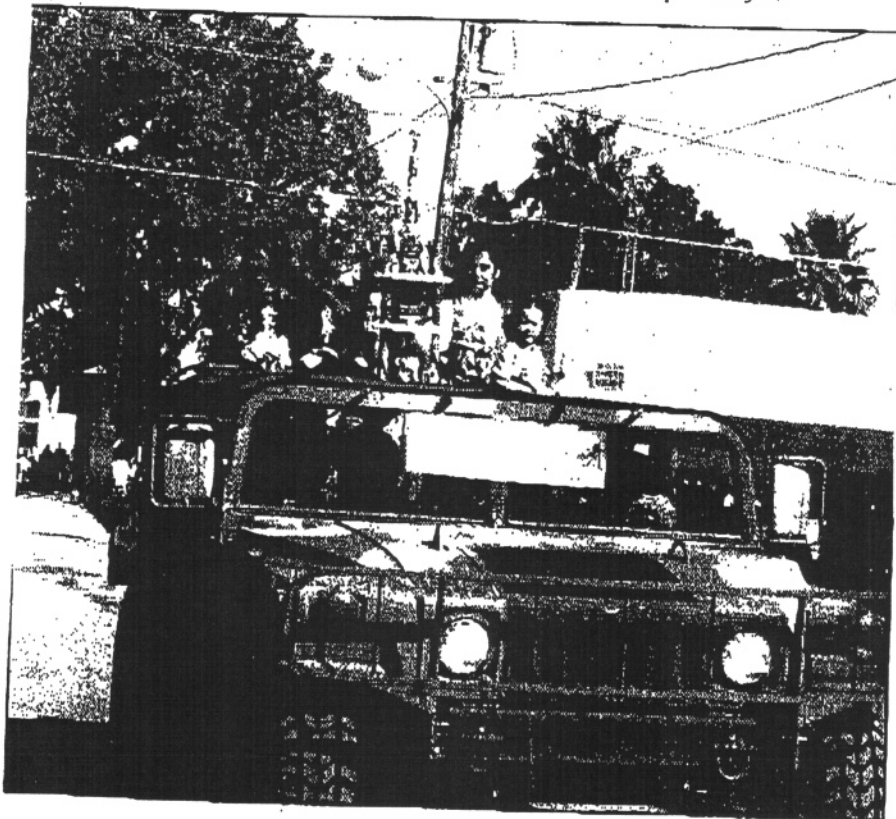
Judges for the parade were Laura Guzman and Ana Lisa Hernandez, both former Del Rioans.

Alejandrina, on the first float, provided the first clue that the parade was an international one with her rendition of musica ranchera. Musical performances also in the parade included Las Hermanitas Montalvo, Tejano Heat, Margarita, Extremo, Grupo Mysterio and Robert Wade among others.

The IGNC Miss Del Rio Court consisted of Miss Del Rio Katie Sutherland, First Runner-up Sara Hernandez, Second Runner-up Maytte

Solis, Miss Photogenic Lydia Ramos and Miss Congeniality Meghan Mack. Accompanying the Del Rio court was Señorita Acuña Amistad Ana Laura Palacios, in her first appearance since her coronation Friday night.

Other reigning queens featured in the parade were San Felipe Exes Black and White Ball Queen Jessica Gutierrez, United Civic Organization (U.C.O.) Queen Valerie Vogt, San Felipe Lions Queen



News-Herald photo by Alejandra Valdez

The Aubrey Rowland third place trophy went to Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary Student Council's Fiesta de Amistad parade float. Pictured is Principal Linda Guanajuato, who followed behind the winning float toting the trophy while riding in a Humvee.

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## Capt. James F. Linzey to be profiled in Marquis Who's Who

Former Laughlin Air Force Base officer and chaplain, Capt. James F. Linzey has been selected to be included in a biographical directory published by Marquis Who's who, the leading biographical reference publisher of the highest achievers and contributors from across the country and around the world.

Linzey will be profiled in the 2002 edition of Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World, which will be available in December.

Linzey is the noted author

of *A Divine Appointment in Washington, D.C.*, nominated as a reserve officer of the year, and was a contributing vocalist in the CD *When the World Turns to God*, which was in the first round of votes for Special Event Album of the Year in the 1996 Dove Award Nomination.

Linzey's next book is entitled *Leadership for Executives*, and his solo CD is entitled *Narrow Road*. Linzey is an officer in the 249th Signal Battalion of the Texas Army National Guard.

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**GUEST COLUMNIST****FW: The critical component of victory . . .**

God Bless America!!!

Dear friends, and fellow Americans:

Like everyone else in this great country, I am reeling from the recent attack on our sovereignty. But unlike some, I am not reeling from surprise.

As a career soldier and a student and teacher of military history, I have a different perspective and I think you should hear it.

This war will be won or lost by the American citizens, not diplomats, politicians or soldiers. Let me briefly explain. In spite of what the media, and even our own government is telling us, this act was not committed by a group of mentally deranged fanatics. To dismiss them as such would be among the gravest of mistakes. This attack was committed by a ferocious, intelligent and dedicated adversary.

Don't take this the wrong way. I don't admire these men and I deplore their tactics, but I respect their capabilities. The many parallels that have been made with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are apropos.

Not only because it was a brilliant sneak attack against a complacent America, but also because we may well be pulling our new adversaries out of caves 30 years after we think this war is over, just like my father's generation had to do with the formidable Japanese in the years following WW II.

These men hate the United States with all of their being, and we must not underestimate the power of their moral commitment. Napoleon, perhaps the world's greatest combina-

tion of soldier and statesman, stated "the moral is to the physical as three is to one." Patton thought the Frenchman underestimated its importance and said moral conviction was five times more important in battle than physical strength. Our enemies are willing - better said, anxious — to give their lives for their cause. How committed are we to America? And for how long?

In addition to demonstrating great moral conviction, the recent attack demonstrated a mastery of some of the basic fundamentals of warfare taught to most military officers worldwide, namely simplicity, security and surprise. When I first heard rumors that some of these men may have been trained at our own Air War college, it made perfect sense to me. This was not a random act of violence, and we can expect the same sort of military competence to be displayed in the battle to come. This war will escalate, with a good portion of it happening right here in the good ol' U.S. of A.

These men will not go easily into the night. They do not fear us. We must not fear them.

In spite of our overwhelming conventional strength as the world's only "superpower" (a truly silly term), we are the underdog in this fight.

As you listen to the carefully scripted rhetoric designed to prepare us for the march for war, please realize that America is not equipped or seriously trained for the battle ahead. To be certain, our soldiers are much better than the enemy, and we have some

excellent "counter-terrorist" organizations, but they are mostly trained for hostage rescues, airfield seizures, or the occasional "body snatch," (which may come in handy). We will be fighting a war of annihilation, because if their early efforts are any indication, our enemy is ready and willing to die to the last man. Eradicating the enemy will be costly and time consuming.

They have already deployed their forces in as many as 20 countries, and are likely living the lives of everyday citizens. Simply put, our soldiers will be tasked with a search and destroy mission on multiple foreign landscapes, and the public must be patient and supportive until the strategy and tactics can be worked out.

For the most part, our military is still in the process of redefining itself and presided over by men and women who grew up with - and were promoted because they excelled in - Cold War doctrine, strategy and tactics. This will not be linear warfare, there will be no clear "centers of gravity" to strike with high technology weapons. Our vast technological edge will certainly be helpful, but it will not be decisive. Perhaps the perfect metaphor for the coming battle was introduced by the terrorists themselves aboard the hijacked aircraft — this will be a knife fight, and it will be

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won or lost by the ingenuity and will of citizens and soldiers, not by software or smart bombs. We must also be patient with our military leaders.

Unlike Americans who are eager to put this messy time behind us, our adversaries have time on their side, and they will use it. They plan to fight a battle of attrition, hoping to drag the battle out until the American public loses its will to fight. This might be difficult to believe in this euphoric time of flag waving and patriotism, but it is generally acknowledged that America lacks the stomach for a long fight.

We need only look as far back as Vietnam, when North Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap (also a military history teacher) defeated the United States of America without ever winning a major tactical battle. American soldiers who marched to war cheered on by flag waving Americans in 1965 were reviled and spat upon less than three years later when they returned.

Although we hope that Usama Bin Laden is no Giap, he is certain to understand and employ the concept. We can expect not only large doses of pain like the recent attacks, but also less audacious "sand in the gears" tactics, ranging from livestock infestations to attacks at water supplies and power distribution facilities. These attacks are designed to hit us in our "comfort zone" forcing the average American to "pay more and play less" and eventually eroding our resolve. But it can only work if we let it.

It is clear to me that the will of the American citizenry - you and I - is the center of gravity the enemy has targeted. It will be the fulcrum upon which victory or defeat will turn. He believes us to be soft, impatient, and self-centered. He may be right, but if so, we must change.

The Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz, (the most often quoted and least read military theorist in history), says that there is a "remarkable trinity of war" that is composed of the (1) will of the people, (2) the political leadership of the government, and (3) the chance and probability that plays out on the field of battle, in that order. Every American citizen was in the crosshairs of last Tuesday's attack, not just those that were fortunate enough to be in the World Trade Center or Pentagon. The will of the American people will decide this war. If we are to win, it will be because we have what it takes to persevere through a few more hits, learn from our mistakes, improvise, and adapt. If we can do that, we will eventually prevail.

Everyone I've talked to in the past few days has shared a common frustration, saying in one form or another "I just wish I could do something!" You are already doing it. Just keep faith in America, and continue to support your President and military, and the outcome is certain.

If we fail to do so, the outcome is equally certain.

God Bless America

Dr. TONY KERN, Lt Col,  
USAF (Ret)

Former Director of  
Military History, USAF  
Academy

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# Laughlin celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

ALEJANDRA VALDEZ

Staff Writer

The Laughlin Hispanic Heritage Committee celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting a luncheon for residents of Laughlin Air Force Base and Del Rio Friday at Club XL.

In between bites of enchiladas, rice, tacos, salsa, beans and salad, guests visited with others sitting at the same table, making new acquaintances as Spanish music came through a sound system.

As the presentation began, the Posting of the Colors and the singing of the National Anthem by Robert Wade was followed by an invocation by Chaplain, Lt. Col. Carl Swanson. Felipe Jimenez introduced the head table.

The guest speaker was Dr. Joseph Lopez, superintendent of the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District.

Lopez said the attack the nation lived Sept. 11 is "a reminder to be a better person."

Lopez advised, "Life isn't a straight path, you will make mistakes, but it makes resilient people."

Lopez, who described SFDRCISD as 87 percent Hispanic, 10 percent white and "property poor" said he chose to commit to this school district because of Del Rio's history, its location on the border and Laughlin AFB. "The Rio Grande is a river that divides or joins these countries. It's how you choose to see it."

Lopez took advantage of his time at the podium to speak of the advances SFDRCISD has made since his arrival in Del Rio. Lopez spoke of the honor Calderon Elementary teacher Marta Galindo had received that very week in being named Texas Teacher of the Year.

The hall was decorated with Hispanic items such as water jugs, tortilla holders, pottery and Mexican paper flowers. One of the walls included information of Hispanics in the military and National Hispanic Heritage Month, which was proclaimed by President George W. Bush on Sept. 28 as running from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. A copy of the proclamation was included in the program placed at every table setting.

Committee Chairperson Belia Stewart was excited the total number of attendees was closer to 150 that the estimated 109 that had been planned for. Tables and plate settings were quickly put in place for the welcomed additions.

Stewart has been involved in the Hispanic Heritage Committee for 15 years. This was her first effort as chairperson. A secretary at LAFB, Stewart credits her involvement in the committee to her supervisor who "encourages everyone to be civic-minded."

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the strug-

gles, accomplishments, contributions, traditions and cultures of Spanish and Latin American descendants in the United States.

More than 30 million Americans, one in eight, according to President Bush's proclamation, claims a Hispanic origin.

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# American pride

## ► Rally draws up to 7,000

By Scott Fitzgerald  
Staff Writer

A very kind yet inflatable man made his way through an overflow audience gathered Thursday at David Allen Memorial Ballpark for a Pride In America rally.

The inflatable man was Rickey Recruiter of the United States Air Force. Rickey stood 10 feet tall with an amicable smile and did not hesitate a moment to shake someone's hand.

"This is really cool. I've never been in anything like this," said the suddenly deflated

Rickey Recruiter who turned out to be Master Sgt. Gary Harkness, director of operations and marketing for the Air Force in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

### TRIBUTE

The rally was held in conjunction with the opening night of the American Veteran Traveling Tribute.

Harkness, who was inside the inflatable Rickey, took a break about midway through rally performances to regenerate his air tanks. He and Senior Airman David Spears, an Air Force recruiter, are responsible for advertising the Air Force Experience, a public relations campaign designed to expose the ben-

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## PRIDE

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efits and good will of the military branch, Harkness said.

Harkness was impressed by Enid's response to drum up pride in America after the country suffered its worst terrorist attack exactly a month earlier and is now engaged in warfare in Afghanistan.

David Allen stadium officials estimated up to 7,000 people attended the rally sponsored by local and area businesses Thursday night. The rally was held in conjunction with the opening night of American Veteran Traveling Tribute, a miniature version of Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The memorial will be on display through Sunday at David Allen Memorial Ballpark.

Entertainment for the rally included opera diva Leona

Mitchell singing the national anthem and Lord's prayer. Other entertainment included twirling, choir singing and salutes to military people, firefighters and police.

Thousands of people attended the rally sponsored by local and area businesses. Proceeds from concession sales and donations will go toward National Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

AMBUCS unofficially raised more than \$2,800 in donations.

Shortly before a beautiful fall twilight descended, Mike Cooper, a trustee with the Vance Development Authority and one of many rally speakers, told the audience, "defending our way of life is what binds us as Americans."

The night ended with a display of fireworks over the ballpark and downtown.

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# Enid rally shows pride in America in songs, prayer

By Dawn Marks  
Enid Bureau

ENID — David Allen, Memorial Ballpark in Enid was awash in red, white and blue Thursday evening as a warm rush of patriotism surrounded more than 5,000 area residents.

Local businesses and organizations sponsored a Pride in America Rally one month after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Enid residents were proud to show their patriotism and respect for those killed by sporting the colors of their country singing, praying, watching local entertainers and waving flags. Donations from the rally went to the National Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Sidney and Frank Gossnell of Enid donned patriotic sweaters and hats and came to give their support.

"We're here to show that America is united behind our president in the war against terrorism," Frank Gossnell said.

Sidney said the two were especially excited to see Enid native and opera singer Leona Mitchell perform "Red, white and blue balloons floated into the air and white birds took flight as Mitchell sang the national anthem.

Later in the evening, community leaders rallied spectators to prepare for a long battle.

Mayor Doug Frantz encouraged residents to support those in the military and especially pilot trainees at nearby Vance Air Force Base who fly over Enid daily.

"Whisper a prayer for that young pilot," he said.

Col. Doug Raaberg, 71st Flying Training Wing commander at Vance, said those pilots will do their best for the country as will those who train them.

"We will do it right for this nation as we have for the last 60 years," he said. "They are the ones we need to support tonight and in the days to come."

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## Rally: Patriotism inspires Enid youth

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Mike Cooper, chairman of the Partners in the Sky Team, a group formed to protect Vance in the event of base closure rounds, said terrorists have failed. The patriotism shown in Enid and across the country is evidence of that, he said.

"The idea of America is emblazoned in the hearts and minds of all of us," he said.

Some spectators said they hoped that the rally would plant the seeds of patriotism in young people.

"I do not think that young people realized about patriotism until (the terrorist attacks)," said Mary Evelyn Adams.

Young people played a part throughout the night, perform-

ing in choirs and twirling balloons.

Belva Lamb, director of the Enid Twirling Academy, said her group of twirlers was excited to wear their U.S.A. suits. Lamb selected a few of her older students for the show but had a hard time narrowing the group down.

"Everybody wanted to do it," she said.

Rhonda Potter of Enid brought her daughters Karley, 8, and Haley, 7, to watch her oldest daughter Ashley, 16, perform with the Oklahoma Bible Academy Choir.

Potter said that her girls, who all attend private schools, liked the idea of being able to do something to help after the terrorist attacks.

"We talk about it at home and they've been praying about it at school," she said.

Staff writer Dawn Marks can be reached by e-mail at [dm@oklahoman.com](mailto:dm@oklahoman.com) or by phone at (580) 233-1508.

## AMERICAN VETERAN TRAVELING TRIBUTE MAKES ENID STOP

# 'What America is all about'

### ► Vietnam memorial makes a stop in Enid

By Scott Fitzgerald  
Staff Writer

Debbie Hobson of Covington was a young child when her cousin, Robert O. Graham, went to serve his country in the Vietnam War.

Graham worked his way up to Army corporal. He was killed in the line of duty, suffering mortar shell wounds during combat.

"I remember it was really cold when we found out he was killed. I remember Mom and Dad going to my mom's cousin's house," Hobson said, her voice trailing off.

Hobson had another chance to remember her cousin Saturday when she rubbed his name on a sheet of paper from a nearly full-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial now on display in David Allen Memorial Ballpark.

Hobson said she would send Graham's name to her sister, who is composing a family genealogy.

Graham was killed Dec. 29, 1967. His name accompanies other U.S.

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## MEMORIAL

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casualties in Vietnam from Dec. 15-29, 1967, on a panel — one of 140 that compose the memorial.

The Vietnam Memorial Wall contains 58,218 names, with six more to be included in 2002, said John Daily, a Vietnam veteran now living in Enid who helped coordinate getting the traveling tribute here and plan the memorial.

Available for viewing and remembering all day and tonight, the American Veteran Traveling Tribute offers people a chance to pay homage to those who served and to those who gave their lives for their country, and to ensure their memories never fade, Daily said.

Hobson, her husband, Steve, grandson, Brett, and friend, Kendra Knouse, joined a large audience Saturday for an opening ceremony and memorial tribute

to American war veterans at the ballpark.

Many audience members were with the Rolling Thunder motorcycle motorcade that arrived from across town.

Tania Ward sang the national anthem and Lighthouse's "Somewhere in Between."

Eight young dancers from Lana's School of Dance choreographed a Billy Joel live recording, "Goodnight Saigon."

Col. Doug Raaberg, 71st Flying Training Wing commander at Vance Air Force Base, was one of many speakers at the memorial tribute.

He commended the Lana's School of Dance troupe who performed before he spoke.

"I've never seen a better expression of what America is all about," Raaberg said about the dance troupe's performance.

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